Lion & Safari Park, Johannesburg, South Africa is introducing its new Voluntourism Programme for 2017 – Our volunteers get to meet some of Africa’s most beloved animal species as they work closely with our guides and researcher. “The perfect African Experience all in one park”

Explore. Discover.
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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

1. Introduction

The Lion and Safari Park is a 600-hectare wilderness reserve situated in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, close to Hartbeespoort Dam and the Magaliesburg Mountain Range, only 20 min from Lanseria International Airport and 40 min from Johannesburg. The park offers guests an incredible opportunity to get up close to many of South Africa’s most iconic animals. Our mission is to provide an opportunity for guests, both local and international to learn more about these wonderful African animals.

The Lion & Safari Park offer volunteers from all over the world the opportunity to experience Africa – all in one park. The unique ambience of the large game farm roamed by Giraffe, Zebra, Gemsbok, Springbuck, Blesbok, Kudu, Sable and Ostrich to name a few, is guaranteed to make your stay unforgettable.

Luxury accommodation is provided in our guest house, all rooms are in-suite. The house is walking distance from the park. Our guest house includes laundry service, kitchen and swimming pool.

The Lion & Safari Park offers a great diversity of landscapes, from mountains, river, forestry areas to open plains. The Lion & Safari Park is voted as one of the world’s top 100 tourism destination that focuses on the wellbeing of the various species, in particular Cheetah, Hyena, the endangered Wild Dog and the rare White Lion.

More about the park:

The all new Lion & Safari Park opened on 16 July 2016 after moving from its old location (20 min away), the new world class facility offers an exciting array of activities and services.

With both game viewing trucks as well as more traditional land cruiser style safari vehicles there are numerous ways to explore the park. Our exclusive three-hour Safari Tour makes use of one of our custom designed open game drive vehicles and offers an unforgettable safari experience.

The Lion and Safari Park offers a wide variety of dining options thanks to the Wetlands Restaurant and Bar. Also, situated at the Lion and Safari Park is the renowned Bull and Buck Grill, an incredible culinary experience for the whole family offering a wide variety of dishes.

The 5 Dome Shopping Experience situated at the Lion and Safari Park offers an immense range of arts, crafts, jewellery and clothing from all over Africa. Also available is a wide variety of homeware, toys and kiddies clothing.
The Lion and Safari Park is open 365 days a year from 8:30 AM until 9 PM.

The Lion and Safari Park boasts Africa’s largest Photographic Centre; the centre offers a one-stop printing and photographic solution. Print your personal pictures at low-cost and have your photos taken professionally with the animals or in front of our green screen and choose from a variety of fun backgrounds. Select your photographs, order beautifully bound photobooks, prints, mugs or choose from a wide variety of other options.

For more information, visit our website www.lionandsafaripark.com

2. Highlights

Our Volunteer programme is packed with exciting events and activities.

- Get close to some of Africa’s predators and antelope
- Feeding and caring for animals
- Spend time with researchers – tracking, capturing and collecting data
- Participating in game drives and other activities
- Meet guests from all over the world
- Learn about African culture
- Living with other volunteers from all over the world
- Developing personal strengths and life skills
- Traditional South African bush meal (Braai/bbq)

3. Programme

Our volunteers will engage in interesting programmes and activities

- Learning more about animals through interactive hands-on projects
- Learning to capture, tag and release animals when required.
- Helping students develop life skills
- Food preparation for the different animals
- Fence checks and repairs
- River checks and clean ups
- Safari guide assistant
- Animal husbandry practices including cleaning and maintenance of enclosures
- Providing enrichments to the animals
- Animal encounters and animal introductions when they occur or are available.
- Caring for new-borns orphan animals when required.
- Interactive sessions with visitors with the small animals, sharing facts and information
• Carrying out the Park's interpretive education program
• Participating in and organizing events for visiting schools.
• Accompanying the education department on outreach education visits to local communities
• Helping to create lesson plans for educational visits
• Assisting staff with guests visiting the park.
• Assist with firebreaks - Many species such as the tortoises, dung beetles, and chameleons, become victims of fires that break out on our property. Firebreaks are put in place to protect these species and control fire spread.
• Help renovate, maintain, or construct new enclosures when needed

Arrive on a Sunday afternoon or Monday morning.

Upon arrival at the OR Tambo International Airport, our shuttle driver will meet and transport you to the Lion & Safari Park. The meeting point is the International Arrivals information desk.

The drive to the park is approximately 45-60 minutes by shuttle service.

• Upon arrival at the park, you will be met by your coordinator (Ronel) and taken to your accommodation facility. After some refreshment, you will attend an orientation where your programme will be explained to you in depth, further you will be introduced to the staff and fellow volunteers. There will be an opportunity to go to a local shopping centre to purchase any personal items or necessities.

• Working hours: 8 hours shifts between 08:00 AM to 17:00 PM, please find a detailed roster attached.

Departure Day

• On your last day with us, the assigned duties are optional, depending on the time of your flight; you and can spend the day enjoying your time with the animals and staff.

• Take back special mementos and gifts for your loved ones by receiving a 20% discount on any Curio shop purchases

• After saying your final goodbyes; you will be taken to the Airport with our shuttle service.

(All the above will be arranged by your coordinator)
4. Research

We have numerous animals that naturally occurs on our property such as Jackal, Water Monitors, Caracal and Serval to name a few.

We have researchers studying these animals on the park and surrounding areas. The research is concentrating on effects of peri-urban encroachment and the animal’s adaption to this, population dynamics, disease and parasite occurrence and seasonal prey changes via scat analysis.

We are also working closely with South Africa’s largest vulture NGO (Vulpro) and created our own feeding project.

Our volunteers will spend time with the researchers; GPS tracking, examining and documenting the animals.

The Lion and Safari Park is committed to upholding the highest animal welfare standards and sustainable tourism ideals.

Lion & Safari Park is a member of PAAZA, the Pan African Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Black-Backed Jackal

The project started in June 2013 and has been running continuously till today, in total 15 jackal have been collared and data collected, for their distribution, distances they travel and to see their home ranges. This project was one of the first in South Africa where a black-backed jackal was collared with GPS collars, the data that has been collected is invaluable. Data on their diet and abundance was also collected and by the end of the study we would be able to see what the population dynamics is of the black-backed jackal in a peri-urban area. We gave questionnaires to the community to see what impact the black-backed jackal has on the community, we also focussed on what the general knowledge was on this elusive predator.

The end result of the project is to have enough data to see just what impact they have on the community, wild animals, and domestic animals. The data will be
used to form a management plan in the hopes of lowering the human-predator conflict.

KaiNav Conservation
Foundation’s African Dragon Project

The KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s African Dragon Project was initiated on the Lion & Safari Park property in February 2016. The aim of this study is to generate baseline data on the peri-urban Nile monitor lizard population using a short stretch of river on the eastern boundary of the Lion & Safari Park.

To date we have captured and chipped 12 individual lizards ranging in size from between two kg to well over 10 kg! The information gathered from these animals will help in the conservation of this species and improve our knowledge on the ecology of large reptilian predators in and around urban habitats.

KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s S.N.A.R.E. Initiative

The KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s S.N.A.R.E. (Snare Neutralization, Awareness and Removal Effort) Initiative is a counter poaching, education and awareness initiative. The S.N.A.R.E. initiative focuses on the location and removal of snares and other devices/equipment used to illegally harvest wildlife and flora from natural areas. By actively and regularly removing snares and other devices/equipment, the initiative intends to make the practice of poaching, unsustainable and uneconomical for the individuals participating in this activity. Data regarding location and characteristics of snare placement is also collected and used in on-going studies and monitoring of poaching activities throughout South Africa.

In July 2016, The KaiNav Conservation Foundation S.N.A.R.E. Team conducted an anti-snare patrol on the Lion & Safari Park property. After a four-hour patrol, six snares were located, catalogued and removed. Each snare was more than 30 cm in diameter and believed to have been set to capture large game species such as kudu. S.N.A.R.E. has since been implemented in the surrounding area, within the Cradle of Human Kind and greater Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve locating and removing more than 50 snares! The proliferation of snares and traps in the area indicates a serious threat to biodiversity in the Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve and Cradle of Human Kind.

KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s SNARE Art – Program

The KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s SNARE Art™ Program uses art in the fight against poaching. This program aims to uplift local artists by assisting them in building a sustainable business. The program is associated with KaiNav Conservation Foundation’s existing S.N.A.R.E. Initiative. The accumulation of
poaching equipment collected during the S.N.A.R.E. Initiative necessitated a unique and dynamic method of discarding of the material in a sustainable, responsible and environmentally friendly way, thus, the SNARE Art™ Program was born. The SNARE Art™ Program involves engaging with local wire artists to create unique art pieces from the snares and other poaching equipment removed from the bush by the KaiNav Conservation Foundation. In September 2016, the Lion & Safari Park became an official supplier of SNARE Art™. The sales generated from SNARE Art™ goes directly to the maintenance and expansion of S.N.A.R.E. and SNARE Art to other parts of South Africa suffering from snare poaching.

5. Activities

River Rafting
Drift for a couple of kilometres at a leisurely pace between the cliffs on the Crocodile River and keep an eye out for the abundant bird life and various animal species like Dassie, Water Monitor, Mountain Reedbuck to name a few.

Guided Lion & Wild Dog Tour
Led by one of our fully qualified and experienced guides the 45-minute Guided Lion & Wild Dog Tour will introduce you to some of South Africa’s most famous predators. This amazing experience in one of our modern safari trucks will take you through the Lion and Wild dog enclosures where you will have an opportunity to find out more about these incredible animals.

Guided Night Drive (With Lion Feeding)
After dark the Guided Lion and Wild Dog Tour really comes to life! The same great Guided Lion & Wild Dog Tour however with the addition of an incredible lion feeding. The safari vehicle is filled with the sounds of the nights and the roar of the lions as they enjoy a full feeding.

Cheetah Walk
Discover amazing facts about these majestic animals as you walk and interact with Cheetahs, this is a great opportunity to take amazing photographs! The hour-long Cheetah Walk takes place under the careful supervision of two of our experienced and knowledgeable guides. A truly memorable experience.

Lion Walk
This amazing experience will allow you to walk and interact with young lions in their natural habitat. Our trained guides will show you how to safely interact with the lions and share all their knowledge with you as you walk for 45min.

Lion Cub Interaction
The volunteers will spend a lot of time with our cubs, feeding, caring, assisting tourist and guides. The new Lion & Safari Park has been designed and developed
to an extraordinary high international standard and our volunteer programme is a bone-fide instructional and engaging program which is designed with the intention of providing the volunteer with an experience that is educational, informative, engaging and enjoyable. Management of the Lion & Safari Park have been instrumental in the formation of The Captive Carnivores working group, we attach a statement distributed by the CCWG giving some insight into the formation of the group and the reason for doing so. Please see addendum f.

**Alex Tour**

Alex Larenty, the world-renowned Lion Trainer, animal behaviourist and Filming Wrangler will take you on an unforgettable 2-hour tour, our volunteers will be amazed by his fearless friendship as he interacts with our full grown big cat predators.

**Feeding Giraffes and Other Animals**

Despite the fact that our volunteers will be responsible to feed many animals with our staff on a daily basis, they can also feed the Giraffe from a feeding platform which is also periodically visited by a variety of other animals including Zebra’s, Nyala’s and Ostriches.

**6. Personal Items**

*What to bring...*

Due to the nature of the project we would appreciate volunteers to wear beige, green or khaki colour clothing. Clothes should be comfortable and preferably clothes you don't mind getting torn or dirty.

- Comfortable walking shoes are a must due to working in an outdoor environment.
- A raincoat for those wet Highveld thunderstorms in our summer months (September – April)
- Sunscreen and a sun hat as it gets very hot in the summer months, where temperatures can reach 35°C in summer.
- If you are travelling during the winter months (May - August) you will need warmer clothes as the early mornings and evenings can get chilly.
- International adaptor plug for charging electronic items.
- Bedding is provided, but please bring your own towels.
- Bring along your own camera, Ipod and laptop (wifi available)
- Toiletries, medicine, personal items.
- A good quality torch to be utilized in the evenings when walking to and from your rooms
7. **Meals**

- Volunteers will receive three meals a day from our Wetlands Restaurant.
- A Daily allowance of R60 per breakfast, R90 per lunch and R120 per dinner is included in the package, any meal exceeding the allowance will be payable at the restaurant. (Please note that the allowance is more than enough for a decent meal) – Please see Menu attached.
- The food allowance is included in the package and non-refundable.
- Take-away options are also available.
- Kitchen facilities are available at the guest house for home cooking.
  * Vegetarian/Halaal meals available on request.

8. **Rules**

- Compulsory Medical Aid Insurance
- Uniform: Whilst on duty or in any enclosure in public view, a volunteer must wear an volunteer T-shirt provided.
- Use of illegal drugs is prohibited.
- No volunteer may leave the premises without completing the register, and informing the coordinator.
- All volunteers must abide by all policies and procedures.
- All valuables to be placed in safe provided.

9. **Accommodation**

- Volunteers will sleep in our guesthouse, all en-suite bathrooms, kitchen, swimming pool and TV lounge.
- Our resident volunteer coordinator (Ronel) also lives on the property.
- The property is 24/7 monitored by security personnel for your safety.
- Walking distance from Lion & Safari Park, transport is also available to commute the volunteers to and from the guest house.
  * Free Wi-Fi

10. **FAQ’s**

- **What is the age range?**
  We accept any age above 16, persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an Adult, no kids under the age of 12.
  Please note: Some activities such as Lion/Cheetah Walk requires persons to older than 16 and weighing 50kg or more.
• **What are the dates?**
  We accept volunteers throughout the year.

• **How long can I go for?**
  Our programme is minimum 2 (two) weeks, but feel free to stay longer.

• **What is the accommodation like?**
  Accommodation is provided in our guest house, all rooms are in-suite, and within walking distance from the park. Our guest house includes laundry service, kitchen and swimming pool.

• **Can the projects cater for vegetarians?**
  We cater for vegetarians; our Wetlands Restaurants is also Halaal.

• **What injections do I need?**
  We recommend getting a Tetanus shot, please see volunteer guide for more information.

• **Will I be met at the airport and how will I get to my project?**
  One of our reliable drivers will collect you at the airport in Lion & Safari Park uniform holding a board with your name on it at arrivals.

• **How safe are the road transfers to the projects?**
  The road transfers are safe, you will ONLY be transported in our reliable L&SP vehicles with our permanent drivers.

• **What back-up can be expected if things go wrong?**
  Please refer to your Volunteer Guide for the contact numbers of 10 emergency contacts, we are here to help 24/7. A list of emergency services with contacts are also in your Volunteer Guide. Also, we'll have: Proof of medical insurance, a copy of your passport and your emergency contact numbers for our records so that we can assist you.

• **What about Travel Insurance?**
  Travel Insurance is compulsory, do not leave your country without it!

### 11 Safety

A volunteer should be under the supervision and guidance of a volunteer coordinator or park guide. We offer 24hr security and medical response. You will be safe if you are responsible for yourself, if you listen to instructions and don't go off alone without telling someone where you are going.

The Lion & Safari Park Volunteer Programme operates out of the South African Lion Park and our volunteer work leads to close encounters with some of Africa's most fearsome wildlife - like lions, Hyenas, Wild Dogs and Cheetahs.
To ensure your safety, our staff and guides are trained and experienced in dealing with dangerous wildlife and we have strict health and safety regulations. All volunteers must sign a detailed risk assessment on arrival and are provided with a full account of all the possible dangers - and of course, how to avoid them.

Travel and medical insurance for the duration of your volunteer work are mandatory, and your responsibility.

12. Requirements

Applicants are expected to be physically able to complete tasks and generally get involved with the rest of the volunteers.

A Basic English understanding is required. Should there be an applicant with poor English command he/she must be accompanied by an applicant of the same language.

The following documentation should be signed and received by Lion & Safari Park prior to arrival
1. Indemnity Form
2. Application Form (Contract)

Other documentation needed:

3. Copy of Passport
4. Copy of VISA if applicable
5. Proof of medical/travel insurance

13. Rates

The rates include:
• Airport transfers (Arrival and Departures)
• Pre-departure information and advice pack
• Daily meals (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)
• Accommodation in guest house
• Activities: Night Drive, Safari Drive, Alex Tour, River Rafting, Bush Braai)
• Volunteer T-Shirts x 3.
• Laundry Service

The rates exclude:
• Flights
• Visas
• Insurance (Medical and Travel)
• Excursions (Elephant Sanctuary, Croc City, Lesedi Cultural Village, Hartbeespoort Cableway)